

# HELPING THE COMMUNITY

*A career as a fish and wildlife officer*

## Meet Jolynn Beauchene

Officer Jolynn Beauchene always liked being outdoors. After graduating with a degree in biology and Spanish she fought wildfire before joining a program called Police Corps. After this program she became a fish and wildlife officer.

For seven years, Officer Beauchene was stationed in Bellingham and focused on mainly fisheries issues. Summer months she spent a lot of time on the water. This included orca protection patrols and working with NOAA agents to prevent salmon poaching and trafficking.

In 2012, she transferred to Spokane and found almost a completely different job. Now, she focuses mostly on hunting and some freshwater fishing patrols. Her job duties are dependent upon the season and can include patrolling lakes, rivers, and wildlife areas and taking public service calls. She also works with a lot of moose conflict. This may include darting the animal and relocating it, and working with the public to prevent attracting and feeding wildlife.



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Officer Beauchene enjoys helping her community and reaching out to those who need it most. She attends senior citizen fishing contests and enjoys bringing the boat out and helping seniors catch fish. "It makes me feel good to know I made someone's day brighter." She also enjoys how her region brings together an atmosphere of teamwork. "Even the IT staff member will help us move a moose if we need him," she said.



For those interested in becoming an officer, Beauchene recommends honing communication and writing skills. "Develop those communications skills. We're often by ourselves, in the middle of nowhere making a contact so you need to be able to talk and communicate with people." She also said that writing reports is a large part of the job. "The hard skills like driving four-wheelers, snowmobiles and using drones, that can be learned on the job. We need people who can communicate and de-escalate contacts," she said.



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